

Appl. No. 10/030,268

Response dated October 28, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A composite material comprising:

a) one or more poorly water-soluble phosphate, fluoride, or fluorophosphate salts of calcium, which salts may also contain hydroxyl and/or carbonate groups, the calcium salt or salts being in the form of rodlet-like primary particles having a mean particle diameter of 10 to 300 nm; and

b) one or more proteins, protein hydrolyzates, or protein hydrolyzate derivatives.

17. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the rodlet-like primary particles have a thickness of 2 to 50 nm and a length of 10 to 150 nm.

18. (previously presented) The composite material of 16, wherein b) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatine, keratin, casein, wheat protein, rice protein, soya protein, almond protein, and hydrolyzates and hydrolyzate derivatives thereof.

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19. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein b) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of gelatine, casein, and their hydrolyzates.

20. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein the calcium salts are encapsulated with one or more surface modifiers.

21. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16, wherein the calcium salts comprise one or more hydroxylapatite or fluorapatite salts.

22. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 16; wherein b) comprises 0.1% to 60% by weight of the composite material.

23.-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A toothpaste comprising the composite material of claim 16.

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The composite material of claim 22, wherein b) comprises 0.5% to 10% by weight of the composite material.